



ALASKA DRUG CONTROL UPDATE

This report reflects significant trends, data, and major issues relating to drugs in the State of Alaska.

Alaska At-a-Glance:

- In 2007-2008, Alaska was ranked first among all states for the rate of past-year marijuana use among adults age 26 and older.
Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2007-2008
- In 2007-2008, Alaska also was one of the top ten states for rates in several other drug-use categories, including: past-month illicit drug use among persons age 12 or older; past-month illicit drug use among young adults age 18-25; and past-year cocaine use among persons age 12 and older.
Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2007-2008
- Approximately 12 percent of Alaska residents reported past-month use of illicit drugs; the national average was 8 percent.

Drug Use Trends in Alaska

Drug Use in Alaska: The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) provides national and state-level data on the use of tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs (including non-medical use of prescription drugs), and mental health in the United States. In the most recent Survey, 11.79 percent of Alaska residents reported using illicit drugs in the past month. The national average was 8.02 percent. Alaska's rate was one of the 10 highest among the states. Additionally, 3.93 percent of Alaska residents reported using an illicit drug other than marijuana in the past month (the national average was 3.58 percent).

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration - State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2007-2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k8state/Cover.pdf>

Drug-Induced Deaths: As a direct consequence of drug use, 75 persons died in Alaska in 2007. This is compared to the number of persons in Alaska who died from motor vehicle accidents (107) and firearms (120) in the same year. Alaska drug-induced deaths (11 per 100,000 population) were lower than the national rate (12.7 per 100,000).

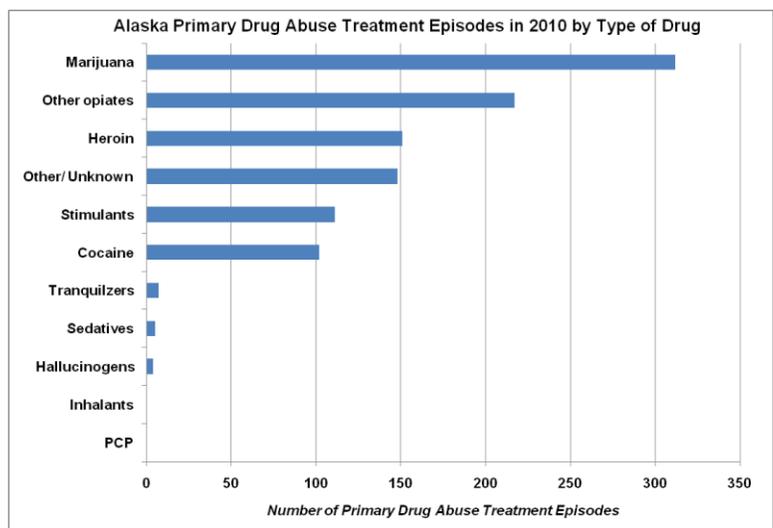
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - National Vital Statistics Reports Volume 58, Number 19 for 2007: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr58/nvsr58_19.pdf

Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Data

Alaska primary treatment admissions:

The graph at right depicts substance abuse primary treatment admissions in Alaska in 2010. The data show marijuana is the most commonly cited drug among primary drug treatment admissions in the state, followed by "other opiates," including prescription drugs.

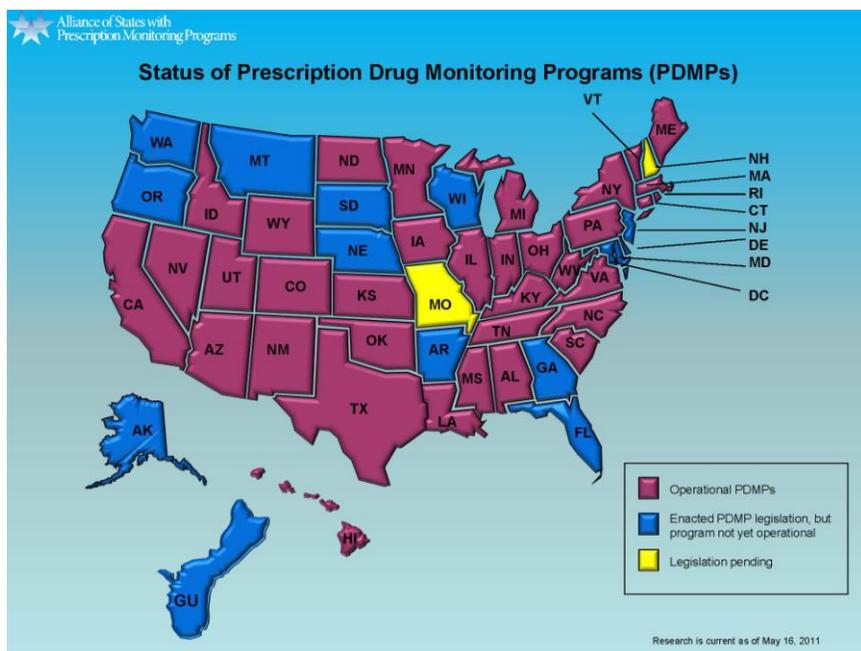
Source: Treatment Episode Data Set, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/dasis.htm>



Prescription Drug Abuse

ONDCP's Efforts to Combat Prescription Drug Abuse

Prescription drug abuse is the fastest-growing drug problem in the Nation. The Administration's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan, entitled, **"Epidemic: Responding to America's Prescription Drug Abuse Crisis,"** provides a national framework for reducing prescription drug diversion and abuse by supporting the expansion of state-based prescription drug monitoring programs; recommending secure, more convenient, and environmentally responsible disposal methods to remove expired, unused, or unneeded medications from the home; supporting education for patients and healthcare providers; and reducing the prevalence of pill mills and doctor shopping through enforcement efforts.



State-Level Action: Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs)

PDMPs track controlled substances prescribed by authorized practitioners and dispensed by pharmacies. PDMPs serve a number of functions, including assisting in patient care, providing early warning signs of drug epidemics, and detecting drug diversion and insurance fraud. Thirty-five states have operational PDMP programs established by state legislation and funded by a combination of state and Federal funds. An additional 13 states have a prescription drug monitoring program authorized, but not yet operational. Adequate resourcing, increasing the number of states with operational PDMPs, and development of state-to-state information-sharing systems would

Alaska does not have a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

State-Level Action: Drug Take-Back Programs

A comprehensive plan to address prescription drug abuse must include proper disposal of unused, unneeded, or expired medications. Providing individuals with a secure and convenient way to dispose of controlled substances will help prevent diversion and abuse of these substances and demonstrate sound environmental stewardship. Federal rulemaking is underway and will further enhance the viability and scope of state and community take-back programs. In the meantime, states are encouraged to work with the DEA to conduct additional take-back events and educate the public about safe and effective drug return and disposal.

Drugged Driving

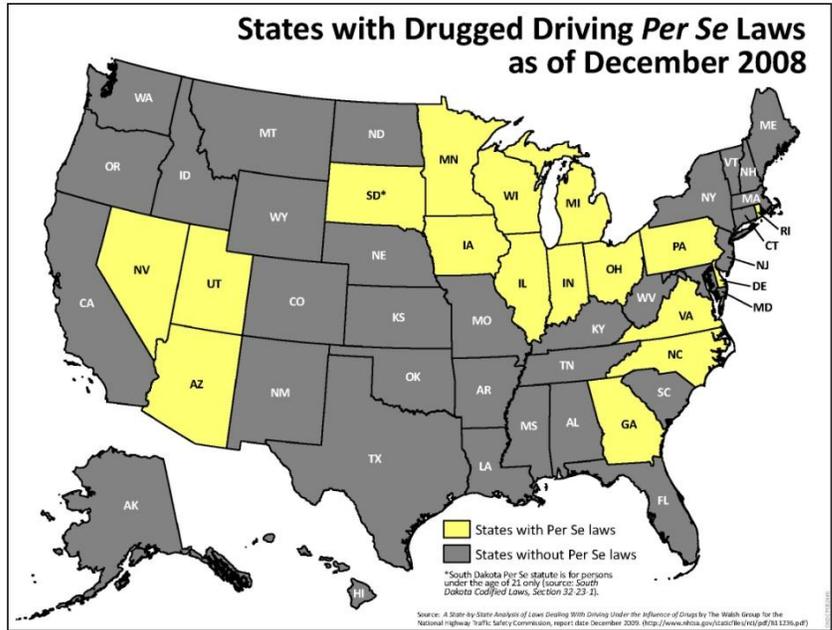
ONDCP Action on Drugged Driving

In 2007, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that one in eight weekend, nighttime drivers tested positive for illicit drugs. According to recent Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS) data, one in three motor vehicle fatalities (33 percent) with known drug test results tested positive for drugs in 2009. Recognizing this growing problem, ONDCP is working to raise awareness of the dangers of drugged driving, provide increased training to

law enforcement in identifying drugged drivers, and encourage states to consider *Per Se* laws to facilitate effective enforcement and prosecution of those who drive with drugs in their systems.

State-Level Action: Enacting *Per Se* Standards for Impairment

Although all 50 states have laws against drugged driving, law enforcement often lacks adequate tools to enforce and prosecute drugged driving. ONDCP encourages states to develop and implement *Per Se* standards that make it illegal to drive a vehicle after taking illegal drugs. This is the same standard used successfully for 12 million commercial drivers in the United States over the past two decades. *Per Se* standards have been adopted in 17 states.



Alaska does not have an operating *Per Se* standard.

However, Section 28.35.030 of the Alaska Statutes states that “a person commits the crime of driving while intoxicated if the person operates or drives a motor vehicle while under the influence of any controlled substance or while the person is under the combined influence of intoxicating liquor and a controlled substance.” Refusal to submit to a drug test is admissible in civil and criminal cases.

Source: *A State-by-State Analysis of Laws Dealing With Driving Under the Influence of Drugs*, by the Walsh Group for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

ONDCP Support for Community-Based Prevention

National Anti-Drug Media Campaign

ONDCP’s National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign provides consistent and credible messages (including those in Native American and Alaska Native communities) to young people about drug abuse and its consequences. *Above the Influence*, a major component of the Campaign, informs and inspires youth to reject illicit drugs and drinking via a mix of national and local advertising vehicles. The Campaign, in close partnership with local community-based, youth-serving organizations, also conducts teen-targeted *Above the Influence* activities to assist local groups with youth drug prevention work in their respective communities.

The Drug Free Communities (DFC) Program

Recognizing that local problems require local solutions, Drug Free Communities (DFC) organizations mobilize communities to prevent youth drug use by creating local data-driven strategies to reduce drug use in the community. ONDCP works to foster the growth of new coalitions and support existing coalitions through the DFC grants. In FY 2011, the following Alaska coalitions received grants from ONDCP:

- Anchorage Youth Development Coalition
- Community Action Coalition for Prevention (Soldotna)
- Fairbanks Alcohol and Drug Free Coalition
- Juneau Drug Free Communities Coalition
- Mat-Su Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
- Yakutat Healthy Community Coalition

Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy http://www.ondep.gov/dfc/grantee_map.html

Federal Grant Awards Available to Reduce Drug Use in the State of Alaska

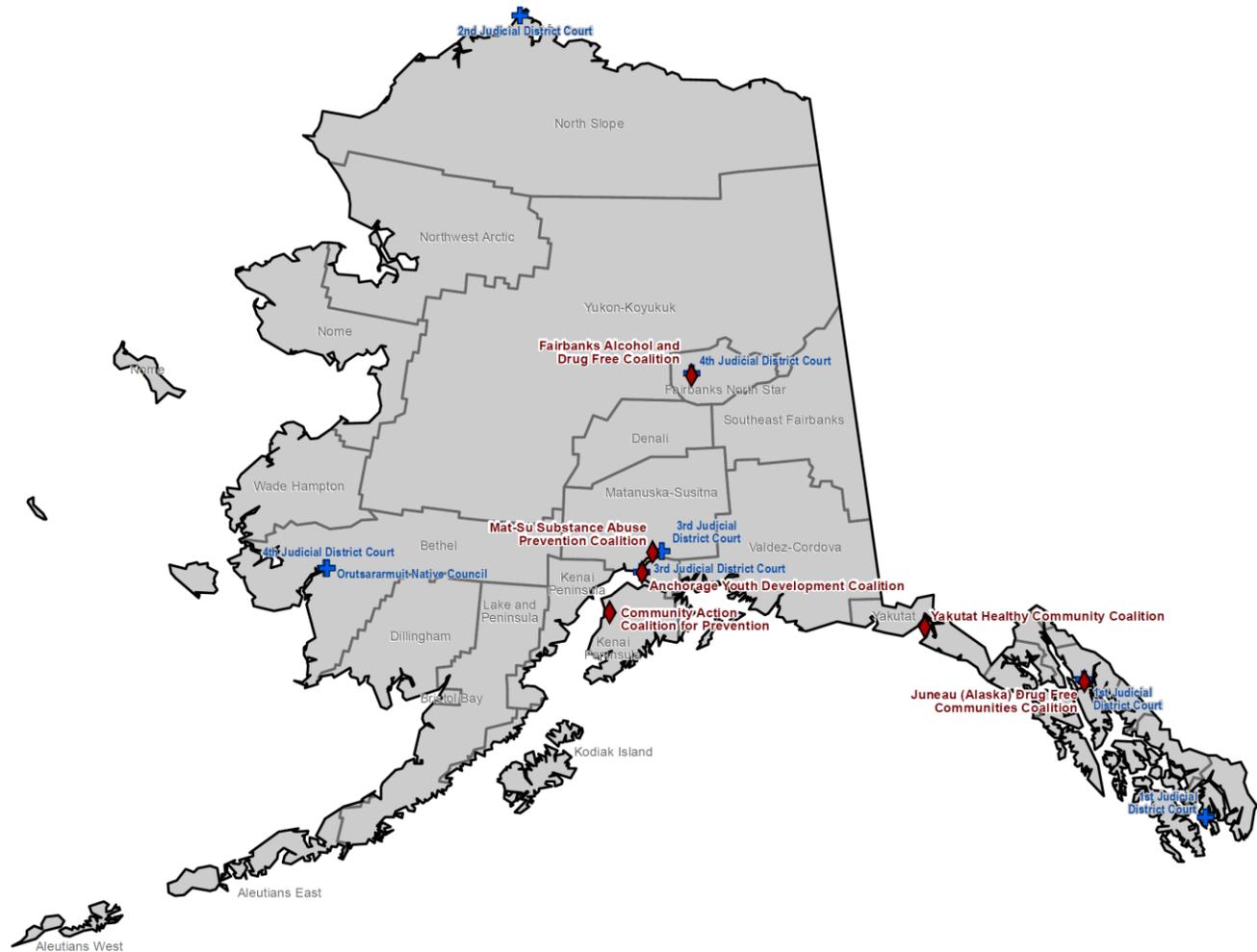
The Federal Government awards competitive grants to help states in their efforts to reduce drug use and its harmful consequences. In FY 2010, direct support was provided to state and local governments, schools, and law enforcement organizations in your state for this purpose. Some Federal grant programs are dedicated to reducing drug use and its harmful consequences while others can be used for reducing drug use or for other purposes. In FY 2010, your State received support under the grant programs shown below.

Federal Grant Awards		2010
Department of Education		
Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities_National Programs		1,289,084
Alcohol Abuse Reduction Grants		593,514
Building State And Local Leadership Capacity for Preventing Youth Substance Use and Violence		123,650
Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grants		571,920
Department of Health and Human Services		
Administration for Children and Families		2,506,156
Enhance the Safety of Children Affected by Parental Methamphetamine or Other Substance Abuse		500,000
Promoting Safe and Stable Families		2,006,156
National Institutes of Health		634,276
Drug Abuse and Addiction Research Programs		634,276
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration		17,570,148
Block Grants for Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse		4,958,281
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)		300,000
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services_Projects of Regional and National Significance		10,050,681
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services-Access to Recovery		2,261,186
Department of Housing and Urban Development		
Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development		434,016
Shelter Plus Care		434,016
Assistant Secretary for Housing--Federal Housing Commissioner		(39,720)
Shelter Plus Care		(39,720)
Department of Justice		
Office of Justice Programs		7,517,218
Community Capacity Development Office		314,000
Congressionally Recommended Awards		1,300,000
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program		2,191,848
Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program		356,400
Indian Country Alcohol and Drug Prevention		1,364,235
Juvenile Accountability Block Grants		312,000
National Institute of Justice Research Evaluation and Development Project Grants		200,000
Recovery Act - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program		59,171
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners		152,120
Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative		175,000
Tribal Youth Program		1,092,444
Executive Office of the President		
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration		849,756
Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grants		849,756
Grand Total		30,760,934

Note: Report as of 11/30/2010. FY 2009 includes additional grant awards under the Recovery Act. The Federal, State and Local Shares of Medicaid and the Federal Medicare Programs are not included above. File updated 06/07/2011.

Office of National Drug Control Policy Programs in Alaska with Drug Court Locations

- ◆ Drug Free Communities program grantees
- + Drug Court locations
- counties



Sources: National Drug Court Institute and ONDCP, September 2011

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